

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, neither Keiji nor Arai teaches the limitation of an in-mold coating injector passageway having a smaller cross-sectional area than said runner section adjacent an intersection between said in-mold coating injector passageway and said runner section. In fact, Keiji teaches a sprue passageway 18 fluidly connected to an injection nozzle 13 and a runner section, the sprue passageway 18 having a larger cross-sectional area than the runner section which leads to cavities 17 as shown in the figures. Similarly, Arai teaches an in-mold coating sprue 14a fluidly connected to injection port 12a for the skin and a runner section 16a<sub>1</sub>, the sprue 14a having a larger cross-sectional area than said runner section 16a<sub>1</sub> adjacent an intersection between said sprue 14a and said runner section 16a<sub>1</sub> as shown in figs. 7-8. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the molding apparatus of Keiji and Arai to provide an in-mold coating injector passageway having a smaller cross-sectional area than said runner section adjacent an intersection between said in-mold coating injector passageway and said runner section since having a runner with large cross-sectional area makes it more difficult to remove the resin in the runner after the molding process. Furthermore, having an in-mold coating injector passageway with a narrow cross-sectional area may not be sufficient to withstand the injection pressure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to XUE LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-5522. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Katarzyna Wyrozebski can be reached on (571)272-1127. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/X. L./  
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/KAT WYROZEBSKI/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791